97TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 97-848

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1982.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BOLLING, from the Committee on Rules, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 581]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 581, reports the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution do pass.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The House of Representatives of the United States Congress in the year 1989 will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of its establishment under the United States Constitution. The House's historical development has been inextricably bound to the development of our national heritage of individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal inalienable rights. The Committee finds that it is desirable and appropriate to provide for the observation and commemoration of this anniversary and the preservation of the history of the House.

House Resolution 581 proposes an amendment to Rule I of the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish an Office of Historian within the framework of the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Office would be managed, supervised, and administered by an Historian, under the direction of the Speaker. The resolution provides that the Historian shall be appointed by the Speaker without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position. Any person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The primary responsibilities of the Historian include:

Coordinating the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives, and

Developing programs for better preservation of the history of the House of Representatives.

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SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE

The Office would operate similar to its Senate counterpart, the Senate Historical Office, which was established in September 1975 within the framework of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate. Initially the position of the Senate Historian and the Historical Office were financed through funds appropriated to the Secretary of the Senate for his "administrative' purposes in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1976 (P.L. 94–59) and later as a separate line item. Since 1975, the Office has served as an information clearinghouse for persons interested in the history and traditions of the Senate and has been involved in activities directed at preserving the history of the Senate. According to its annual report for fiscal year 1981 the Senate Historical Office:

> Collects and provides information in important events, dates, statistics, precedents, and historical comparisons of current and past activities of the Senate, for use by members' offices, the press, scholars, and the general public.

The Senate Historical Office currently has a staff of five including, Richard A. Baker, the Senate Historian, an associate historian, a photohistorian, an assistant historian and a secretary.. The Office assists researchers, maintains a register of locations of former Senators' papers, edits for publication committees' older executive session transcripts and conducts oral history interviews with senior Senate staff. The Senate photohistorian provides coverage of current Senate activities of potential historical significance and collects, for Senate and public use, older photographs illustrative of the Senate and its sixteen hundred former members. The accomplishments and activities of the Senate Historical Office include: A catalog of Senators' Research Collections, oral history of the Senate, statements on the Senate's history, publication on Presidential Inaugurations, catalog of unprinted committee hearings, comprehensive photo collection, bibliography of the U.S. Senate since 1789, seminars and conferences to publicize and encourage scholarship related to the Senate, files on Senate-related research projects underway or recently completed, and other projects designed to disseminate information to the Senate and the general public on the history and traditions of the U.S. Senate.

Position title, appt. term.:	*Annual base salary*
Historian	$46,655
Associate historian	34,414
Photohistorian	33,490
Assistant historian	18,940
Secretary	18,016
Research assistant	15,000
Total	151,515

	Fiscal year—		
	1982	1981	1980
1. Salaries	$151,515	$146,000	$138,500
2. Photo processing	4,500	4,500	4,000
3. Books	2,000	2,000	2,000
4. Stationery	500	500	400

BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

In 1989 the Congress will commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of its establishment under the United States Constitution. The Office of the Historian would be responsible for assuring that the bicentennial is celebrated in an appropriate manner, and would be expected to work in conjunction with the Senate Historian to coordinate these activities. On August 1, 1980, the Senate passed Senate Resolution 381, establishing a Study Group on the Commemoration of the United States Bicentennary to prepare an overall plan for commemorating the Senate bicentennial through an appropriate program of publications, exhibits, symposia and related activities. The final recommendations of the Senate Bicentennial Study Group are expected to be submitted to the President of the Senate by December 31, 1982. The Senate Historian has worked with the Senate Bicentennial Study Group and that Office would most likely have the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the recommendations of the Study Group. Several of the proposed publications under consideration by the Study Group are already in preparation by the Senate Historical Office or could be accomplished through the existing resources of that Office. These include:

Guide to United States Senators' Manuscripts Collections.

United States Senators, 1789–198?: An Annotated Bibliography.

Biographical Directory of the United States Senate, 1789–198?.

Guide to Senate Official and Committee Records at the National Archives.

Senator Robert C. Byrd's History of the Senate.

Guide to the Senate's Artistic and Historic Furnishings.

Senate Historical Almanac (100 pages of facts and figures).

The Senate in Pictures: Photographs, Cartoons, Engravings With a Catalog of the Senate's Photographic Collections.

Outstanding Senators (biographical profiles of a number of former senators, selected and prepared by independent scholars; published in a 250-page book).

Outstanding Issues (scholarly articles focusing on major constitutional and national issues in which the Senate played a dominant role).

The Senate From The Inside (first-person accounts by former members and staff, since the eighteenth century, of the Senate's life and customs; edited and assembled in a single volume).

Minutes of the Democratic and Republican Party Caucuses, 1903–1960.

On August 17, 1982 Representative Richard Bolling, at the direction of the Speaker, organized an informal congressional working group to begin the process of planning the House bicentennial. The congressional working group consists of Representatives: Bolling, Yates, Boggs, Simon, Sharp, McCurdy, Rhodes, Conable, Cheney and Gingrich. On September 8, 1982 the congressional working group recommended to the Speaker that he appoint an advisory panel of historians, political scientists, former Members of the House and other citizens to assist in planning the bicentennial and in preserving the history of the House of Representatives. The Advisory Panel on the Bicentennial is composed of the following individuals:

Architect of the Capitol, George White.

Archivist of the United States, Robert Warner.

Librarian of Congress, Daniel Boorstin.

Former Members of Congress: Carl Albert, Former Speaker of the House; Fred Schwengel, U.S. Capitol Historical Society; Reverend Robert Drinan, Georgetown University.

Roger Kennedy, Director, National Museum of American History.

William Leuchtenburg, National Humanities Center and Columbia University.

John Hope Franklin, Harvard (retired), Duke University.

Richard Fenno, Political Scientist, University of Rochester.

Anna Nelson, Historian, George Washington University.

Frank Freidel, Professor, University of Washington, Seattle.

Bryce Harlow, First White House Congressional Liaison (Eisenhower Administration).

Ralph McCoy, former Executive Director of Association of Research Libraries.

Linda Grant DePauw, editor, Papers of the First Federal Congress, GW University.

Ronald Peters, Director, Carl Albert Congressional Studies Center.

At the September 8, 1982 meeting of the congressional working group, it was proposed that a resolution to establish an Office of House Historian would be appropriate at this time. On September 15, 1982 Representative Richard Bolling introduced House Resolution 581, to amend the rules of the House and establish the Office of Historian. One of the functions of the Speaker's Advisory Panel on the Bicentennial would be to assist in the evaluation of candidates for the position of Historian and to make appropriate recommendations to the congressional working group who will in turn make recommendations to the Speaker. The Advisory Panel would then continue to advise the congressional working group and the historian in planning the bicentennial commemoration and in developing programs for the preservation of the history of the House.

Provisions

The Committee on Rules considered House Resolution 581 on September 21, 1982 and reported the resolution by voice vote without amendment, a quorum being present. House Resolution 581 amends Rule I of the Rules of the House of Representatives by adding a new clause 10 to establish in the House of Representatives an office to be known as the Office of the Historian.

APPOINTMENT OF HISTORIAN

The resolution provides that the management, supervision, and administration of the Office shall be vested in the Historian, under the direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Historian shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position. Any person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.

The historian should be an individual who has demonstrated a knowledge of American history, a knowledge of the legislative proc-

ess, some organizational skills and/or achievement of professional recognition in his or her profession. Although the size and staff of the Office would be at the discretion of the Speaker, initially it is anticipated that the Historian and a research assistant/secretary would be employed, but support staff could be obtained through utilization of the congressional fellowship or intern programs or through utilization of the services of staff of members of the congressional working group or the advisory panel.

AUTHORITY OF THE HISTORIAN

House Resolution 581 provides that the Historian shall have the responsibility of—

(1) Coordinating the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives; and

(2) Developing programs for better preservation of the history of the House of Representatives.

The Committee expects the historian to work closely with the House Parliamentarian, the congressional working group and the advisory panel on the bicentennial. Proposed activities of the Office of the Historian could include:

Developing projects for the consideration of the advisory panel on the bicentennial;

Consulting with the Senate historian and the Senate bicentennial study group to coordinate bicentennial activities;

Developing programs for better preservation of the history and traditions of the House;

Collecting and providing information on important events, dates, statistics, House Members, etc., for use by Members' offices, the press, scholars, and the general public;

Collecting and maintaining a bibliography of all substantive works published about the House and its members;

Maintaining a central register of locations of former Members' papers;

Maintaining a more extensive biographical director of current and former members of the House, encouraging the recognition of outstanding former members;

Identifying opportunities for noting otherwise neglected places of historic interest in the House wing; and

Other activities designed to promote and perserve the history of the House of Representatives.

FUNDS

House Resolution 581 provides that all expenses of the Office may be paid from the contingent fund of the House on vouchers solely approved and signed by the Speaker, until otherwise provided by law or resolution. Since the expenses of the Office will be paid out of the contingent fund of the House, no additional appropriations or funding resolutions would be necessary.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On September 21, 1982, the Committee on Rules, which has original jurisdiction over amendments to the Rules of the House of Represent-

atives, held a hearing on House Resolution 581. Testimony in support of the resolution was received from Representatives Lindy Boggs and Paul Simon. Several Members of the Committee on Rules also made statements in support of the resolution. The Committee on Rules ordered House Resolution 581 favorably reported to the House, by voice vote, a quorum being present, September 21, 1982.

Statement Under Clause 2(l)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives

A. Oversight statement

The committee made no special oversight findings on this resolution.

B. Budget statement

No budget statement is submitted.

C. Estimate of the Congressional Budget Office

No estimate or comparison was received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office as referred to in subdivision (C) of clause 2(l)(3) of the House rule XI.

D. Oversight findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations

No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations were received as referred to in subdivision (a) of clause 2(l)(3) of House rule XI.

Changes in the Rules of the House of Representatives Made by the Resolution

In compliance with clause 4(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in the Rules of the House of Representatives made by the resolution are shown as follows (existing matter proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing matter in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

Rules of the House of Representatives

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Rule I

DUTIES OF THE SPEAKER

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"*10. (a) There is hereby established in the House of Representatives an office to be known as the Office of the Historian.*

"*(b) The management, supervision, and administration of the Office shall be vested in the Historian, under the direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Historian shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position. Any person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.*

"(c) *The Historian shall have the responsibility of—*

"(1) *coordinating the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives, and*

"(2) *developing programs for better preservation of the history of the House of Representatives.*

"(d) *All expenses of such office may be paid from the contingent fund of the House on vouchers solely approved and signed by the Speaker, until otherwise provided by law or resolution.*".

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